

Scavengers 951

Chapter 951: Language

Ji You shook his leg and gave Liu Fufeng's hand a sidelong glance, saying, "Aren't you letting go yet?"

Liu Fufeng released him, but he didn't leave, still leaning against Ji You. Even though he didn't dare hug his leg anymore, he refused to move an inch. Chu Jiaojiao mimicked his actions, running over immediately, trying to grab Ji You's other leg. Ji You glanced at her and said, "Jiaojiao, don't even think about it. If you dare hug my leg, I'll beat you to death."

Chu Jiaojiao leaned her head over, grinning, "Go ahead, you can beat me however you want."

Ji You: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao giggled foolishly, "Oh my gosh, Ji You looks so good. Just now, I almost thought I was a goner. I don't want to die because I want to look at Ji You's face for a hundred years, two hundred years, three hundred years... for a lifetime."

Ji You: "..."

The Little Golden Dragon in Ji You's arms suddenly popped its head out and gave Liu Fufeng a sidelong glance, then looked at Chu Jiaojiao. It straightened its face and said, "Woman! Why are you always flirting everywhere?"

Ji You: "..."

Who did I provoke?

These troublesome people...

When Chu Jiaojiao saw the Little Golden Dragon, there was a hint of surprise in her eyes. She had long known that Ji You had bought a Mecha from Teacher Mu, a transformable one, but she didn't expect this Mecha to be so unique...

Earlier, the Little Golden Dragon had fallen out of the Space Button and quickly crawled into Ji You's arms. Chu Jiaojiao was busy with herself, having no time or energy to observe it. Now that the crisis had temporarily subsided, Chu Jiaojiao moved closer to take a good look at the Little Golden Dragon.

Facing Chu Jiaojiao's scrutiny, the Little Golden Dragon wasn't flustered at all, allowing her to observe it. After Chu Jiaojiao was done watching, it said, "Chu Jiaojiao, are you satisfied with everything you see?"

Chu Jiaojiao laughed heartily and reached out to touch the Little Golden Dragon's head. The Little Golden Dragon swiftly dodged, evading her, and said very seriously, "Do you think anyone can touch my head except for Ji You?"

Chu Jiaojiao wasn't upset by the rejection, instead, she laughed aloud, "Alright, alright... I won't touch it in the future."

Little Golden Dragon: "Hmph."

Liu Fufeng, who was also classified as 'flirting everywhere,' pretended to be a quail the whole time, fading his presence and not participating in the discussion.

Shen Changqing showed a hint of confusion when he saw the Little Golden Dragon, thought for a moment, then his eyes suddenly lit up. However, he immediately frowned and fell into contemplation.

Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and Sheng Qingyan were also curious and studied the Little Golden Dragon.

Sheng Qingyan just glanced at it and lost interest, covering his mouth to yawn and said, "Talking Mechas are too noisy. I still like the quiet Ghost Stab." As the universe's number one excellent sniper, he doesn't need external aids to enhance his shooting skills.

He—

Only ever trusted himself, only himself.

Yue Qiyuan and Yue Qiguang just looked at the Little Golden Dragon out of curiosity before withdrawing their gaze. The two had already switched places with Ji You and Sheng Qingyan. While talking, they piloted the spaceship, charging towards the Jump Point at an incredibly fast speed.

Boom—

The spaceship flashed and dashed into the Jump Point, disappearing into the starry sky.

...

At this point, Ji You and the others finally felt relieved.

Yue Qiguang asked, "What was that thing earlier, any clues?"

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan... all shook their heads, and Ji You was even more in the dark. Everyone looked bewildered, and Shen Changqing said softly, "The spaceship's monitors didn't capture any footage, nor were there any signs of anomalies. That force seemed entirely integrated with the starry sky, having no entity at all."

Ji You furrowed his brow and asked, "Did you guys hear two waves? There were two different waves. What is it exactly?"

Everyone shook their heads.

The Little Golden Dragon, nestled in Ji You's arms, suddenly poked its head out and said, "You bunch of fools, that's them speaking, just sound waves you haven't heard before."

"Huh?" Everyone widened their eyes, staring intently at the Little Golden Dragon and asked, "You know they were speaking?"

The Little Golden Dragon lifted its head arrogantly and said, "Of course."

In the next second.

The Little Golden Dragon said, "Just a guess."

Everyone: "..."

Ji You put on a stern face and said, "In such a serious moment, don't mess with everyone."

"Woman, mind your tone with me. You're just my feeder," the Little Golden Dragon snickered lightly, then continued seriously, "Back when the repairman was creating me, he found a strange, unknown material and boldly incorporated it into my design. Later studies revealed that this material came from a life form humans have yet to discover. Since my body contains this life form's genes, a significant advantage is that I can understand the languages of over 60% of the life forms in the explored universe."

Ji You: "!!!"

Everyone: "!!!"

"Ahem..." The Little Golden Dragon said, "No need to worship me too much, it's just 60%. There are still 40% I don't understand in the vast starry sky." Suddenly, the Little Golden Dragon folded its arms and said, "But compared to you weaklings, I'm indeed very impressive."

This arrogant manner of speaking is just like Ji You's, truly befitting Ji You's Mecha.

Shen Changqing couldn't help but interrupt the Little Golden Dragon, pursuing, "So, what were they saying?"

The Little Golden Dragon touched its chin and said, "'Huh? Go.'

Shen Changqing: "???"

Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao... all looked up, confused, and Ji You asked, "What did they say?"

The Little Golden Dragon rolled its eyes and said, "Woman, your clumsy excuse is terrible. If you want my attention, just tell me directly, and I'll give you a chance."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You raised her hand and gave the Little Golden Dragon's two horns a good rub: "Talk properly, quickly tell us exactly what they said?"

The Little Golden Dragon: "'Huh? Go.'

Ji You: "Huh?"

The Little Golden Dragon frowned: "Are you really confused, or just pretending?"

Shen Changqing, on the side, softly asked, "Little Golden Dragon, are you saying they said 'Huh?' and 'Go,' these two words?"

The Little Golden Dragon listened, turned to Shen Changqing, and found him slightly more pleasing to the eye. It said, "Correct. Through simulating and comparing trillions of sound waves in the universe... I concluded they were probably saying just those two words. And also—"

The Little Golden Dragon changed its tone: "Please call me Lord Heavenly Dog, I am not the Little Golden Dragon."

Upon hearing this, Shen Changqing glanced at the Little Golden Dragon slightly puzzledly, then chuckled softly, nodding: "Hello, Lord Heavenly Dog."

The Little Golden Dragon: "..."

Oh my~

This is the first human to call me 'Lord Heavenly Dog' to my face. This—

This is an honest person.

Quite... quite adorable.

Chapter 952: Sound Waves

After Little Golden Dragon finished speaking, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan... everyone pondered what the two words it mentioned meant.

Huh?

Go?

Two different fluctuations, said two words.

Yue Qiyuan said in a deep voice, "Could it be that they discovered something, suddenly became confused, stopped to observe, and without finding anything, just left?"

Shen Changqing thought for a moment and said, "I think so too. Perhaps, the process went like this: these two unknown entities were roaming in the starry sky and suddenly found something puzzling to them. That's why one of them suddenly said 'Huh?' Then, they stopped to observe, carefully scanning their surroundings, but couldn't find this thing that amazed, confused, or puzzled them. It's possible they were in a hurry to do something and didn't linger any longer, and the other entity urged them to hurry up and leave, so it said 'Go?'"

After hearing this, everyone found it very reasonable, and all turned to look at the Little Golden Dragon still nestled in Ji You's arms.

Little Golden Dragon nodded with seriousness, saying, "Listening to their audio fluctuations, that's my conclusion as well."

Ji You asked, "Then... what did they discover at that time that made them stop?"

As soon as this question was raised, everyone who felt they had grasped something fell into contemplation again. Chu Jiaojiao squinted her eyes and said, "They are already strong enough to crush any of us with a flick of a finger. The wind unintentionally stirred when they walk can cause our spaceship to shake violently... With such powerful strength, what would make them suddenly stop?"

Strange.

Too strange.

...

For a moment, no one had an answer.

Yue Qiyuan said, "Let's not discuss why they stopped for the time being. Are these entities already prevalent in this starry sky, or did they suddenly appear in human society? Our monitors can't capture or observe their appearance—is there invisibility material within their bodies, or are their bodies inherently formless and intangible... Or perhaps..."

As Yue Qiyuan raised this question, everyone again sank into deep thought.

Chu Jiaojiao said, "I lean towards them having solid bodies, only their physical components contain invisible material, which makes it impossible for our current technology to capture just yet."

Yue Qiguang rather agreed and said, "Dad thinks so too!"

Shen Changqing pondered momentarily, neither agreeing nor opposing directly, and said, "Then... if such entities really exist within the universe humans inhabit, why have we never discovered them?"

Could it be that they are alien species? Originating from beyond the eight major star systems that humanity has yet to develop?"

"Hmm?" Yue Qiyuan raised his eyebrows and said, "That's possible. Could it be that they existed before but went undocumented?"

Shen Changqing was somewhat regretful and said, "It's a pity we couldn't spare the effort at that time to capture and record the sound waves of such entities; otherwise, we could have attempted to search and compare them with past data."

At that moment, Ji You suddenly said, "I recorded them."

Everyone: "Ah?"

Shen Changqing asked in surprise, "When did you record them?"

Ji You's lips curled into a subtle smile and said, "At that time, I was worried we might actually die, and Teacher Mu, along with other teachers from school, as well as our relatives and friends, wouldn't know the cause of our death. I wouldn't let my own death become an unsolved mystery in human history. So, with my last breath, I activated the Light Computer's recording function."

Everyone: "!!!"

Yue Qiguang jumped over, couldn't help but give Ji You's shoulder a hard slap, and shouted, "Number 4444, well done!"

Yue Qiyuan also looked at Ji You with a very complex expression in his eyes and said, "Ji You, you're getting stronger."

The situation at the time truly was a matter of life and death, hanging by a thread; any distraction was unattainable. Yue Qiyuan couldn't do it, and he believed neither could Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Sheng Qingyan, Liu Fufeng... None of them could do it, but number 4444 Ji You left herself a card up her sleeve in that situation.

She left the crucial information about them!

Hearing Yue Qiyuan's words, Ji You grinned and said, "Ordinary, ordinary, just the strongest in the universe."

Yue Qiyuan was speechless at her words but refrained from further criticizing her.

"I just love Ji You's confidence, carefree, and proud side," Chu Jiaojiao jumped beside Ji You with an infatuated smile, "especially when Ji You shows off."

Ji You hummed, pushed Chu Jiaojiao's face away, and said, "Don't idolize me, I'm just a legend."

Chu Jiaojiao was pushed away, but leaned back in, "Ji You, you're getting better and better."

Ji You: "Hmm."

Beside them, Shen Changqing's expression was complex when looking at Ji You, with admiration, concern, but more of encouragement! Knowing Ji You can do it, he was determined to be able to do it in the future.

Shen Changqing's eyes sparkled, "Ji You, how did you manage in that situation?"

Ji You straightened her face and said, "It's not difficult at all. Just remember always to leave yourself a card up your sleeve; I was vigilant around me before anything happened. When the crisis broke, I was prepared in the first instant, so I had a dozen seconds more to respond than you did."

What Shen Changqing heard gave him something to think about.

Ji You patted Shen Changqing's shoulder and said earnestly, "Little Stupid, work hard to learn; the world is so vast, you have much to learn."

Shen Changqing: "Cough, cough..."

Shen Changqing said, "Ji You, can you..."

Ji You hurriedly interrupted him, saying, "Alright, alright... I won't call you by that nickname anymore, Little Stupid."

Shen Changqing: "..."

Over here.

Liu Fufeng, Little Golden Dragon, and Sheng Qingyan didn't join the discussion. Liu Fufeng sat in the seat next to Ji You, head down, shoulders shaking, seemingly still in shock.

Little Golden Dragon poked its head out from Ji You's embrace, listening attentively to everyone's discussion with great enthusiasm.

Sheng Qingyan directly closed her eyes and snoozed on the tabletop.

After a moment of contemplation, Yue Qiyuan said, "Ji You, the soundwaves you recorded, play them again for everyone to hear. Maybe we can find similar data on Star Network?"

Upon hearing this, Ji You immediately prepared to replay the two soundwaves.

Suddenly—

Sheng Qingyan, who had been lying with her eyes closed, abruptly raised her head and shouted, "Stop!"

Ji You: "???"

Sheng Qingyan frowned deeply and said, "No one knows if openly playing their soundwaves will attract their companions, or even them, back to us. These are entities undocumented in human history; no one can guarantee what they are capable of."

Chapter 953: Arrangement

"Huh?" Ji You's fingers paused, and the others all stared at her nervously. Ji You withdrew her hand and said, "Don't worry, I haven't played it yet."

Everyone instantly breathed a sigh of relief.

Ji You turned to Sheng Qingyan and asked, "Why do you have such a suspicion?"

"Because they are too powerful, and we are too weak. We can't afford even a tiny risk, so we have to be cautious." Sheng Qingyan's beautiful eyes were dark and deep... His eyes were fixed in the direction of the monitor, not moving an inch. Then, he said, "I even suspect that they don't have a physical form and communicate and interact using spiritual power or other similar energies."

As soon as these words landed, everyone shook with surprise. Facing their astonishment, Sheng Qingyan said calmly, "It's just a hypothesis. It may not be true."

For some reason, maybe because they were used to hearing Little Cutie adding an 'oh' at the end of every sentence, now that Sheng Qingyan spoke seriously without it, everyone found it very strange and hard to get used to.

Ji You said, "Spicy Eye oh, I think your conjecture is very likely oh. Now, let's think about what to do with these two sound waves oh?"

Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes and said, "You're really funny trying to mimic how others speak oh... The first Little Cutie of the Universe isn't someone you can easily imitate oh?"

Ji You put on a serious face: "Let's talk about serious matters. What should we do with the two sound waves recorded in my Light Computer?" They couldn't just play them freely nor release them for research... Ji You really didn't dare to experiment with other people's safety...

Sheng Qingyan said, "Well, finding someone to arrange it is none of my concern oh. Just randomly find someone to throw it to and let them research it oh? Like Teacher Mu, or Grandpa Shen, or Grandma Chu..."

"Anyway, just find any one of them oh."

Upon hearing this, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, and Shen Changqing's eyes all lit up. Shen Changqing said, "I'll give it to my grandpa then. He happens to be staying in the Sixth Star System, and he can look into it."

Chu Jiaojiao said, "If Grandpa Shen can't manage, I can have my grandma or my second aunt help out."

Yue Qiyuan and Yue Qiguang glanced at each other, and Yue Qiyuan said, "We can help as well." Being the quartermaster's office of the Yue Family, they managed the Alliance's most important warehouse and coordinated the logistics of the entire Alliance, so checking some information would be relatively easy.

Ji You thought about this for a moment, considered it comprehensively, and then said, "We can first report this matter to Teacher Mu and Grandpa Shen to listen to their suggestions and arrangements."

Everyone unanimously agreed.

...

At this very moment, the spaceship had charged into the jump point and come out, carrying Ji You and the others away from the previous starry sky to another relatively safer starry sky. After setting the spaceship to autopilot, the group gathered to discuss how to arrange the previous matter.

Little Golden Dragon was jumping back and forth in Ji You's arms. Ji You found it annoying and picked it up, tossing it aside. At this moment, Ji You needed to call Teacher Mu. As soon as Little Golden Dragon heard the words "Teacher Mu," it immediately calmed down a bit, jumped onto Ji You's head, and obediently coiled atop, saying, "Woman, do you think I look gallant and strong like this?"

Ji You rolled her eyes, "Can't see."

Little Golden Dragon pondered, hopped from Ji You's head to the table, faced Ji You, and asked, "Woman, can you see my handsome and dashing look now?"

Ji You said, "Go to the side, I'm going to call Teacher Mu."

After thinking about it, Little Golden Dragon decided its current image shouldn't tarnish the repairman's reputation, so it sat upright and said, "I'll just sit here."

Ji You ignored it and immediately dialed Mu Jianling's contact number. After ringing for a short moment, the call was connected. As soon as the connection was made, Little Golden Dragon, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiyuan, and even the always quiet Liu Fufeng all sat up straight immediately, straightening their backs like students waiting for a review...

In the holographic video, Mu Jianling was crouched in a corner, tinkering with numerous scattered components... After glancing at the background briefly, Ji You recognized that this was the 99th floor of the Mechanical Manufacturing Laboratory in Building 10.

Mu Jianling's voice was soft, but her tone was cold, asking, "What's the matter?"

Ji You said, "Here's the situation, Teacher..."

Ji You succinctly and vividly described their encounter with a kind of unknown creature on the road to Teacher Mu Jianling. Ji You asked, "Teacher, should I send the two sections of audio waves I secretly recorded to General Shen Chi first, or directly to you?"

After listening to Ji You's account, Mu Jianling was momentarily stunned, showing a rare serious expression, and said, "Are you sure this is the kind of feeling you encountered?"

Ji You replied, "Yes, we're sure!"

Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan... all nodded in unison: "We're all sure."

Mu Jianling's eyebrows furrowed, and after a brief silence, she said, "It's right not to open them. Based on what you've described, I suspect that this creature's sound wave transmission speed is very fast, and the distance is likely extensive... meaning if you leak a little, they might find you in the blink of an eye." With this, Mu Jianling paused briefly and said, "Maintain strict protection of this data and send it directly to General Shen Chi. Also, send me a copy. After that, you don't need to worry about it. I'll arrange it."

Ji You quickly nodded, "Yes, yes, yes..."

The call ended.

Immediately after, Ji You promptly called General Shen Chi.

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

After waiting for about three minutes, the holographic call on General Shen Chi's side suddenly connected, but it wasn't General Shen Chi himself who answered; it was a deputy officer beside him.

Ji You hesitated over whether to tell this matter to the deputy officer when she saw General Shen Chi entering, hands behind his back, and telling the deputy, "You can go now."

The deputy officer left.

Ji You hastily simplified the situation and expressed it succinctly again, stating, "Grandpa, this is the situation. The two forces we encountered are very powerful, so we didn't dare to casually open their audio files."

General Shen Chi nodded approvingly, "That's good foresight."

Ji You giggled foolishly, "Lots of practice."

General Shen Chi glanced at his grandson, who remained silent throughout, and then at Ji You, who proactively approached like a 'granddaughter'... His own grandson showed no concern for his grandpa, not even a caring greeting...

Feeling stern at the moment, General Shen Chi said, "Little Ji You, send the audio to me. After that, make sure you completely destroy it and leave nothing behind."

Chapter 954: Hoarding in Secret

As soon as General Shen Chi spoke, Ji You, Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao... all were stunned. Ji You opened her mouth, wanting to ask something, but thinking it might be relatively confidential information, she held back her curiosity and didn't ask.

General Shen Chi noticed Ji You's expression, and his tense face relaxed slightly as he said, "Girl, if you want to ask something, just ask."

"Huh?" Ji You widened her eyes in surprise, "I can ask?"

Shen Chi replied with a smile, "Yes, you can."

Ji You hadn't even had time to get happy when Shen Chi said, "You can ask, but I choose not to answer."

Ji You: "..."

Isn't he just teasing her?

Ji You said speechlessly, "Grandpa... please don't crack jokes at a time like this, they're really not funny at all, especially since you're not a humorous person at all. Do you know that your jokes are chilling?"

Shen Chi laughed, "Alright, alright..."

Ji You couldn't contain her curiosity and asked, "Grandpa, is there really no information regarding this that you can share with us?"

To know that those two forces are incredibly terrifying, Ji You believes that just one of them, with a casual breath, could annihilate the whole group of seven. What if they're in a bad mood and want to crush the group, or they're originally a massacre-prone species... this... this is not a pleasant thought, just thinking about it makes her shiver.

In this regard, Ji You is very curious.

Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiyuan... are also very curious.

Shen Chi saw a group of kids, all stretching their necks, raising their heads, looking at him expectantly. Shen Chi smiled and said, "Telling you too much now won't be beneficial to you. All you need to know is that if you encounter them, immediately play dumb and act soft, don't go head-to-head. As for the audio file, if you play it suddenly, it could indeed bring crisis, because their hearing is extremely sharp—even if it's played from across a star system, they can possibly hear it."

Ji You: "!!!"

Everyone: "!!!"

Ji You widened her mouth: "Is it... it's really that terrifying?"

Being able to hear each other from across a star system is really beyond description in terms of fear.

Shen Chi looked at this group of kids, his gaze swept over each one, and finally stopped at Liu Fufeng. Then, he said, "Among you all, if anyone has secretly kept the audio file, I hope you delete it immediately. Don't mess with death."

"Cough, cough..."

"Cough, cough..."

"Cough, cough..."

As soon as General Shen Chi spoke, the surroundings suddenly filled with dry coughs, and then Shen Changqing was the first to step forward and delete the secretly kept copy of the audio file right in front of Shen Chi.

Destroyed.

Completely destroyed, unrecoverable.

Ji You watched Shen Changqing's action and couldn't help but tease, "Xiaoqing, I didn't expect you to be like this, Xiaoqing. You even learned to secretly keep things behind our backs... impressive."

"Cough, cough..." Shen Changqing's face showed slight embarrassment.

"I'm different, I made a total of..." Ji You said this while facing everyone, and deleted the 9999 copies of the audio files she secretly kept, one by one.

Everyone: "..."

Facing everyone's peculiar gazes, Ji You smiled and said, "I've deleted them all, really, not one left."

After saying that, Ji You pushed Chu Jiaojiao's face aside and said, "Jiaojiao, stop looking, quickly delete the ones you've hidden away."

"Cough, cough..." Chu Jiaojiao maintained her poker face and said, "Alright, I'll listen to Ji You. If Ji You says delete, then I delete."

Then.

Chu Jiaojiao opened her file storage and, right in front of everyone, deleted 999 copies.

Everyone: "..."

Chu Jiaojiao crossed her arms and said, "Stop looking, let's all delete them together. Why keep them? Are we courting death?"

Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Sheng Qingyan then dared not delay and deleted all the secretly kept audio files one by one from that time. Ji You leaned over to take a look: Wow!

Each and every one of them didn't hide less either.

Once everyone finished deleting, Ji You turned to Liu Fufeng and asked, "Student Fufeng, didn't you hide yours?"

Liu Fufeng replied, "I did."

Ji You was surprised, "You won't delete?"

Liu Fufeng glanced at General Shen and then asked, "Can I refuse?"

He turned his face towards General Shen as he spoke.

General Shen's expression was extremely serious and he said, "Of course you can, but I hope you delete it. Because at that time, even if your nation's Emperor personally comes, maybe there won't be a way to save you."

Liu Fufeng pursed his lips and thought for a while, he seemed quite conflicted, but still obediently found and deleted all the files he secretly kept in front of everyone.

Everyone looked on in slight speechlessness: Wow, this Liu Fufeng even hid 999999 copies in just a few seconds behind everyone's backs!

Liu Fufeng's face turned slightly red and he said, "I carelessly kept them, accidentally copied that many."

Ji You said speechlessly, "Your carelessness is really something, carelessly copied exactly 999999 copies."

Liu Fufeng lowered his head and whispered, "I like the number 9, so..."

General Shen suddenly said, "Prince Ji, I am very pleased with your decision, thank you for making a wise choice."

Upon hearing the words 'Prince Ji,' Liu Fufeng's body quivered slightly. He looked up at Shen Chi, then lowered his head slightly again and said quietly, "General Shen, I greatly admire you. In your presence, I am but a naive junior, please call me Fufeng, or Student Fufeng."

Shen Chi smiled broadly and said, "Alright, Student Fufeng, my Changqing is about your age, you young folks can communicate; if you need help in the future, you can find my Changqing."

Liu Fufeng softly said, "Thank you."

Shen Changqing promptly said, "Student Liu Fufeng, if you need help, don't hesitate."

...

While speaking, Shen Chi glanced at the time, and Ji You noticed and hastily asked, "Grandpa, are you already near the place where we encountered the Red Crown Bird Group before? Are you very busy? If you're busy, go ahead. Please don't worry, I'll take good care of Student Shen Changqing."

Shen Changqing: "Cough, cough..."

As a boy, being told by a girl that she would take care of him was really — a bit embarrassing.

Shen Chi looked at Ji You and smiled, "Mm, I'm almost there. You all be careful, Grandpa's hanging up now."

Before Shen Changqing could say anything, Ji You hurriedly said, "Grandpa, you must also be careful! You must! You must!"

Ji You, at this moment, thinking about so many High-level Red Crowned Birds, level 7, 8, 9... quite a lot, her heart is panicked. Can General Shen Chi alone resist?

Chapter 955: Investigation

Under the earnest urging of Ji You, General Shen Chi finally hung up the phone.

As soon as the call ended, Ji You stared at the closed communication page, the worry on their face not lessened in the slightest. Shen Changqing saw this and couldn't help but say, "My grandpa..."

Ji You turned their head and looked at Shen Changqing—

Under Ji You's clear gaze, Shen Changqing quickly changed his tune after just three words, saying, "Our grandpa is actually very strong, really strong. You don't need to worry too much. Not only is he strong, but his skill in escaping danger is particularly formidable, really."

Seeing that Ji You seemed unconvinced, Shen Changqing hurriedly said, "Really, trust me. Grandpa has told me many stories of his repeated 'narrow escapes,' and he even boasts that in terms of escaping, he dares to claim second place in the entire universe, with no one daring to claim first."

Ji You said speechlessly, "Our grandpa is so sneaky?"

"Ahem..." Shen Changqing said with a serious face, "It's not sneaky, it's strong."

Ji You laughed, "I believe our grandpa is very strong and also believe he won't be in any danger."

Seeing Ji You smile, the atmosphere inside the spaceship relaxed accordingly, and Shen Changqing also took a deep breath, but—his inner worry wasn't much less than Ji You's.

The spaceship steadily proceeded towards the Bee Head Star.

Ji You looked at everyone and asked, "By the way, did you all really delete that audio file?"

Chu Jiaojiao said, "I deleted it."

Yue Qiguang rolled his eyes and said, "Knowing it's a deadly thing, why would Dad keep it?"

Yue Qiyuan said, "I love life, I don't court death," implying the file was completely deleted.

Sheng Qingyan said, "I'm not at all interested in such things. If you don't believe it, you can check my Light Computer."

Originally thinking that saying this would prevent Ji You from checking, Sheng Qingyan was surprised when Ji You immediately came over, carefully checked Sheng Qingyan's Light Computer, and, after confirming nothing remained, smiled and said, "Spicy Eye, not bad, good sense of precaution, keep it up in the future."

Sheng Qingyan gave Ji You a sideways glance and said, "You still need to teach me, huh~"

Ji You looked at Shen Changqing, who shook his head and said, "I didn't keep it."

Ji You thought for a moment and said, "Let's check again, just in case any of you forgot where you hid it. Find it and completely destroy it, it must not be leaked out."

Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and Sheng Qingyan all complied and thoroughly checked their Light Computers according to strict requirements.

After the check, all said, "Nothing is left."

Ji You turned to Liu Fufeng and said, "Student Fufeng, you wouldn't still be hiding it privately, right?"

Liu Fufeng shook his head, "I didn't."

Ji You was a bit skeptical and said, "To be blunt, if you find yourself in danger, we won't actively save you. Also, if you really hid a copy, just say so, so we can stay far away from you."

Liu Fufeng looked at Ji You, his beautiful black eyes incredibly calm, and said, "I didn't hide it, you can check the spaceship's surveillance footage, or check my Light Computer."

Ji You didn't shy away and went up, saying, "Please open your Light Computer for me to check."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

This request from Ji You did seem a bit rude, but considering the terrifying nature of the thing, Ji You steeled themselves and made this slightly excessive demand.

Liu Fufeng thought it over, looked at Ji You and others, and whispered, "I can go through all my things in front of you for a check."

Ji You explained, "Jiaojiao, Spicy Eye, Xiaoqing, the dim-witted Yue Qiguang and Yue Qiyuan, we've often done activities and training together. For everyone's safety, I'm sure they definitely wouldn't hide anything. But you—" Ji You looked at him, extremely serious, "I don't trust."

Ji You's straightforwardness did sting a bit, and a shadow of hurt from being distrusted crossed Liu Fufeng's handsome face. But he complied, laying out all his belongings for a check.

During Liu Fufeng's check, Ji You watched without blinking.

Only after confirming no issues did Ji You relax, flashed a smile at Liu Fufeng, and said, "Student Fufeng, I'm sorry for the abruptness. To express my apology, I've decided to fulfill your request, and give you—"

Liu Fufeng's eyes lit up...

Ji You said, "Give you a handmade cane."

Liu Fufeng: "..."

Ji You had been joking, but to their surprise, after a moment of thought, Liu Fufeng asked, "Will it be made personally by Ji You?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was shocked, "Do you actually want it?"

Liu Fufeng earnestly said, "Really."

Though slightly speechless, Ji You nodded and said, "No problem, I'll custom-make a cane for you."

Chu Jiaojiao, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang... watching on the side, somehow all felt that upon hearing Ji You personally make him a cane, the low mood enveloping Liu Fufeng seemed to vanish, and his entire being suddenly became full of energy.

Ji You was also quite puzzled: [Really this fond of canes?]

...

Meanwhile.

General Shen Chi led his elite soldiers to the abnormal location of the Red Crowned Bird, but strangely, the closer they got, the quieter it became around them.

Silence—

In this vast expanse of starry sky, within sight, there were hardly any living things visible, not even a trace of the usual cosmic debris floating around.

The Deputy Officer said, "General, we've arrived, but there's no sign of a Red Crowned Bird gathering point, nor any Red Crowned Birds."

Shen Chi said, "Search within a radius of 10 light years, at all costs."

The Deputy Officer said, "Yes."

minute.

minutes.

minutes.

...

Time ticked by, most of Shen Chi's elite soldiers were engaged in the search, leaving only a few around him for protection. When the first elite soldier completed their search, they reported to Shen Chi:

"Report!"

"Search completed, no targets found yet."

Shen Chi's brow furrowed tightly, his expression extremely grave, "Continue searching. Any anomaly found, report immediately."

The elite soldier said, "Yes."

Subsequently, a group of elite soldiers, centered around General Shen Chi, began searching the Star Sea in endless circles. Soon, more reports came in, all indicating no unusual findings.

Shen Chi considered this, his brow slightly furrowed: "Could it be, those Red Crowned Birds left on their own?"

Chapter 956: A Life of War and Battle

Inside the cockpit, Shen Chi stood with hands behind his back.

One of the Alliance's top ten Mechas—the Chasing Light, was spreading its massive wings, standing silently under the starry sky.

All around was silent; not a sound was heard. Shen Chi's SSS-level spiritual power spread like a vast net, continuously, relentlessly, extending in all directions...

Every inch covered, no gap left.

Nothing.

Nothing.

Still nothing.

Shen Chi's brows furrowed deeper and deeper...

After a while.

Shen Chi withdrew all the Spiritual Silk; in an instant, the intangible and immaterial net, formed by the Spiritual Silk, quickly retracted back into his Spiritual World.

Once he felt the replenished Spiritual Silk, Shen Chi instead raised a hand to rub his brow:

[As expected, couldn't find a single trace.]

The next moment, communication sounded.

Shen Chi accepted it, and heard the Deputy Officer's voice: "General, nothing came up."

"Found absolutely nothing."

The Deputy Officer of General Shen Chi spoke with a hint of shock and frustration at not completing the mission; how could there be nothing found? With such a large flock of Red Crowned Birds and thousands of High-level Star Beasts, the Deputy Officer thought it impossible for them to just vanish instantly. But, if they migrated elsewhere, they had searched the path thoroughly; how could they not discover the migration trails of these Red Crowned Birds?

Not even a feather, nor plumage... nothing was seen.

After the Deputy Officer finished speaking, he awaited orders from General Shen Chi intently.

Shen Chi closed his eyes slightly, then said: "Understood. Have everyone gather and return."

The Deputy Officer was taken aback, asking: "General... are you sure about withdrawing?"

Shen Chi nodded: "Yes."

The Deputy Officer: "But—"

Shen Chi said: "No buts, withdraw."

The Deputy Officer said: "Understood."

Immediately.

All soldiers dispersing for the search received the order to regroup and returned at a very fast pace. All elite soldiers returned, not one missing, Shen Chi said in a deep voice: "Return flight."

The Starship plunged into the endless starry sky, quickly disappearing.

...

Upon returning to the base, Shen Chi entered a completely enclosed room at the first opportunity. Inside the vaguely claustrophobic space, on a wall was a brightly lit holographic screen, showing an elderly silver-haired man in a wheelchair.

The elder's face was deeply lined with wrinkles, his eyes half-closed, appearing somewhat listless.

When the light brightened and footsteps were heard, the elder sensed something and quickly raised his head to look towards the lens, "Oh~ Chi, it's you."

The formidable General Shen Chi, who carried great authority in front of others, showed respect and deference in attitude and tone when facing this elder. He softly said, "Marshal."

The elder, currently the Alliance's incumbent Marshal—He Chuan, gave a slight nod, asking: "How is it?"

Shen Chi's expression was somewhat grave, saying: "As before, couldn't find anything."

The Marshal appeared extremely lethargic, barely able to open his eyes. Upon hearing General Shen Chi's words, his eyelids fluttered slightly, and with a light sigh, he said: "I'm getting old, my memory is fading; how many times has this happened now?"

Shen Chi softly responded: "In nearly 100 years, this is the 4th incident."

"Oh—" The Marshal raised a hand, rubbed his brow, and said: "The 4th time, huh. It seems their shortages lately are considerable. I recall two centuries ago, they required just once per century."

Looking at the wise elder before him, Shen Chi couldn't resist asking a long-hidden question in his heart: "Marshal, could they ultimately pose a threat to humanity?"

The Marshal continued rubbing his brow, saying: "I don't know."

Shen Chi raised his voice: "Marshal!"

The Marshal raised his hand to stop Shen Chi, who was slightly agitated, saying: "Chi, my time is running short."

Upon hearing, the excitement on Shen Chi's face vanished instantly. Looking at the Marshal's almost lifeless face, concern, concern, still concern... For a moment, he didn't know what to say.

The Marshal looked at Shen Chi, once a young and tender boy, now with a face full of worn experiences, the wrinkles representing numerous experiences. Already... already capable of standing alone.

Looking at Shen Chi, the Marshal's wrinkled face showed a slight smile of contentment, saying: "After I'm gone, you are the most suitable successor."

Hearing that, Shen Chi remained silent.

The Marshal sighed lightly and said: "Some responsibilities, no matter how old you become, as long as it's your turn, you must shoulder them. You must step forward, carry the sky for the Alliance and for the children. Chi, I believe in you."

Shen Chi pressed his lips together, after a while, he said: "Marshal, you will certainly recover."

The Marshal shook his head, unwilling to continue the topic, his eyes looked past Shen Chi towards the Starry Sky Map hanging on the wall, his gaze distant...

second.

seconds.

seconds.

...

Suddenly, the Marshal softly said: "Chi, I'm planning to personally confront them."

Shen Chi was startled: "Marshal!"

The Marshal kept his eyes half-closed, saying: "I am an old man nearing the end, unable to do much anymore; I'll spend my final moments scouting the way for you."

Shen Chi's face was full of disagreement: "Marshal, I don't think this is a good idea. Your body has recovered enough to handle simple tasks, and with further care..."

The Marshal closed his eyes, seemingly unwilling to listen.

Shen Chi gradually fell silent, quietly watching the elder's face, the one who once held his hand, taught him step by step, and led him onto the battlefield. Unknowingly the elder had reached the point where speaking a sentence left him breathless.

So—

Has so much time passed already?

The elder with closed eyes unknowingly released faint snores.

Exhausted, he had fallen asleep.

Not wishing to wake the elder, Shen Chi held his breath, minimizing his presence to the barest minimum, but only for a moment, the elder suddenly sat up, startled, he asked somewhat confusedly: "How long did I nap?"

Shen Chi felt his nose slightly ache, softly replying: "Marshal, you only napped for about 3 seconds."

"Oh—" Hearing this, the Marshal breathed a small sigh of relief, saying: "Luckily."

After these two words, facing Shen Chi's worried gaze, the Marshal wasn't in any rush. He smiled faintly, saying: "In the end, everyone faces this journey, no need to worry."

After thinking, Shen Chi couldn't help but advise: "Marshal, please reconsider your decision. Your sole task currently is to let everything go and focus on nursing your health. As the only publicly acknowledged SSS-level Spiritualist, I believe it is more suitable for me to replace you."

The elder waved his hand, saying: "I've lived a life of battle, never considered retirement. Let's not speak of it anymore, Chi, you may go."

After speaking.

The elder voluntarily cut the communication.

Shen Chi stood motionless before the holographic screen, enveloped in an inexplicable sense of sorrow...

For a long while.

For a long while.

For a long while.

Chapter 957: Are You There?

When the spaceship rushed into the jump point, thoroughly leaving behind the place where the two mysterious forces appeared, Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Sheng Qingyan, Liu Fufeng, a total of 7 people, barely relaxed their tight nerves.

After reporting the sudden encounter with these two mysterious forces to General Shen Chi via phone, and learning that General Shen Chi had personally gone to the place where the Red Crown Bird Group had moved, the smile disappeared from Shen Changqing's face.

The expressions of Ji You, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others were not at all relaxed.

Ji You didn't let herself get immersed in worry and anxiety for too long. The first thing she did was check everyone's Light Computer in the team. After confirming that none of them had secretly kept the audio recording, Ji You felt slightly relieved.

This audio recording, which Ji You secretly recorded, was certainly not to cause trouble. General Shen Chi had personally said that this audio was extremely important to humanity. Precisely because it was too crucial and too dangerous, it was not suitable to remain in the hands of a few first-year students.

Therefore, Shen Chi required Ji You and the others to immediately delete and destroy it. Ji You executed the order more rigorously than ever before, to ensure the safety of herself, her teammates, and also her other classmates, school, friends, family... She deleted and destroyed it herself, and urged others to do the same.

...

It was Liu Fufeng's first time joining the team, and he was a transfer student. Ji You admitted she didn't understand much about him, his character, or his strength. When it comes to matters of life, Ji You was never arrogant or self-important, so even if it offended Liu Fufeng, Ji You insisted on forcing him to delete the audio.

Fortunately, Liu Fufeng, apart from being a bit petty, was okay in other aspects.

Then.

Just as Ji You was about to take a break and before she could turn around, she heard Liu Fufeng behind her ask, "Ji You, when do you plan to make my cane?"

Ji You, slightly speechless, replied, "Are you in a hurry?"

Liu Fufeng nodded, saying, "Yes, very much."

Ji You glanced at his hands and feet, seeing that they were perfectly fine, couldn't help but retort, "You don't need it now, why are you in such a hurry?"

Liu Fufeng hung his head and whispered, "I'm afraid you'll renege on it."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You pointed at herself, asking, "Am I that kind of person?"

Liu Fufeng gently lifted his head, looking at Ji You's bright eyes. His black lashes quivered, then he whispered, "I'm poor, I can't handle the blow of being renegeed on."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You said, speechless, "I also can't handle the blow of being accused as a Lao Lai."

Nearby, Sheng Qingyan, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan... watched Ji You and Liu Fufeng. While others didn't think much of it, Sheng Qingyan suddenly remembered something and suddenly said, "Hey poor dead, I remember you owe me 5 roasted rabbits, don't you?"

Ji You looked around, saying, "Do I? I don't remember."

Sheng Qingyan huffed, saying, "It's what you owed after the simulation field ended. You are such a Lao Lai."

Ji You grinned, chuckling, and said, "I deny what I don't remember."

Upon hearing this, Liu Fufeng whispered, "I really should guard against such things."

Then.

Liu Fufeng suddenly took out a tree branch from his Space Button, handed it to Ji You, and said, "Ji You, I've prepared the material, can you help me make it now?"

Ji You: "..."

Ji You was about to outright refuse, when suddenly—

She felt a slight tremor in her originally silent Spiritual World, and then, from the Spirit Core, a large net spread out over the entire Spiritual World—

Splash~

The Boss gasped loudly, and as he opened his mouth, Fourth, who had been hiding under his two front teeth, was spat out. The Boss said, [Wow~ Almost suffocated me, can't you idiots stop clinging to me?]

Second heard this, shrank his head, and wandered around.

Third heard it, saw that the tail of the Boss, which he had been holding, was almost bald, felt a little guilty, took a step back, and wandered away.

Fifth heard it, let go of the Boss's tail, glanced at Second and Third, then turned to the Boss, opened his mouth, and howled: [Boss, I'm a bit braver now, I won't do it next time.]

Sixth heard it and followed: [Boss, I won't grab you either.]

Only Fourth, spat out by the Boss, did not reflect on himself. Instead, he smoothly slipped into Fifth's mouth while Fifth was opening it. This time, he didn't hide behind Fifth's big front teeth but hid at the back molars.

After saying his piece, Fifth suddenly felt something off with his teeth. He suddenly raised his head, looked around, but found nothing, then hurriedly coughed...

But nothing came up.

However, the back molars felt like something was sticking up, particularly uncomfortable...

Fifth: [Ahhhhh—]

Fourth curled up, pretending he didn't exist.

...

Witnessing all this, Ji You found it extremely speechless. By this time, she had already taken the stick that Liu Fufeng had handed over. This piece of wood came from a naturally grown tree, which judging by the tree rings, was probably several decades old.

Ji You examined it again and again, feeling that this branch was just enough to make one, so she said to Liu Fufeng, "As for the cane, this material is enough, but I only guarantee to make you one with basic support, nothing more."

Liu Fufeng thought for a moment, nodded, and said, "I just need a cane."

Only then did Ji You feel at ease, thus she took out knives, cutters, grinding tools... and began to craft.

...

In the process of crafting, because her spiritual power was exhausted, at this point, the Boss, Second, Third, Fifth, Sixth... all appeared listless, looking extremely languid, so whenever Ji You started working, she always felt a bit off. She raised her hand, rubbed her brow.

The encounter with the two unknown forces caused a huge drain on her spiritual power, barely avoiding the verge of collapse. Fortunately, the Spirit Space remained stable, showing no signs of collapse.

Ji You calmed her mind and continued crafting the cane.

Beside her, Liu Fufeng was slightly turned, his eyes and gaze fixed on Ji You's movements.

Trimming, grinding...

Soon, a somewhat thick branch gradually took the shape of a cane...

Liu Fufeng kept watching intently.

Ji You, while crafting, observed her six Spiritual Threads, noting how fatigued they all appeared, yet their overall mental state seemed very good.

Then——

Ji You's eyes stopped on a certain node in the Spiritual World.

There—

—utterly dark, like a horizonless black...

The silhouette of the Iron Plate was nearly invisible, as if it never existed.

Ji You raised her hand, rubbing her head, softly asked, "Xiao You, are you there?"

Chapter 958: Oppressive Might

Towards the depths of her Spiritual World, she uttered a greeting. In reality, Ji You's hand was holding a metal carving knife, and she didn't stop her actions, still diligently polishing the cane bit by bit.

Silence.

An utter silence.

It felt as if her Spirit Space never had Xiao You, nor was there ever any Iron Plate—everything was merely Ji You's imagination.

[Xiao You—]

[Xiao You—]

[Xiao You—]

...

Ji You called out firmly, one sentence after another.

But!!!

No.

No response.

The entire Spiritual World, aside from six drooping Spiritual Silk strands, was a vast darkness...

[Xiao You—]

Ji You's voice already carried a hint of sobbing, yet she persistently called out again and again. Usually, just a gentle shout was followed by Xiao You's sweet and soft reply—now—

She was gone.

Ji You gripped the carving knife tightly, and suddenly—

Crack~

The sudden crisp sound frightened Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and Sheng Qingyan, who had been startled and still tense. Yue Qiguang glanced towards the source and fell silent: "Number 4444, are you crazy? Your hand is bleeding—don't you know?"

At his words, Ji You glanced down and saw that her right index finger was accidentally cut deeply, blood flowing profusely...

"Oh—" Ji You calmly withdrew her hand, and without blinking, took out a Blood Stopping Tape and applied it. This tape had healing properties. Such a wound would heal within half a day.

Then.

Ji You continued to polish the cane.

Watching this scene, Yue Qiguang and the others were a bit speechless. Yue Qiguang said, "Fool, did someone rob your money?"

Ji You: "???"

Yue Qiguang eyed her sidelong, saying, "You obviously have the look of someone who's had their money stolen, really? Is your money truly all gone from your account?"

If it was before, Ji You would have cursed a few times, but now, she wasn't in the mood. So everyone saw Ji You only lift her eyelids, glanced at Yue Qiguang, then lowered her gaze devoid of any spirit, continuing to polish the cane.

Everyone: "???"

Crack~

Once again, Ji You's hand was cut.

Ji You indifferently tore off another Blood Stopping Tape and continued to polish.

Then.

Crack~

Another cut.

Everyone: "???"

Ji You paused, looking at the third wound. She appeared a bit angry as her brow furrowed, and then, under everyone's gaze, Ji You suddenly took out a stack of Blood Stopping Tapes from the Space Button and threw them onto the workbench.

Everyone: "!!!"

—Ji You, are you planning to harm yourself?

Chu Jiaojiao leaped over and asked, "Ji You classmate, if there's something troubling you, please speak out, don't harm yourself."

Ji You was silent.

Her brow tightly knitted, the pressure around her getting lower and lower... As the low pressure emanated, a heavy atmosphere enveloped everyone, making them feel a strong, oppressive force. Chu Jiaojiao, the closest to her, felt it most, enduring a heavier oppression... Chu Jiaojiao opened her mouth, even feeling for a moment as if she were about to suffocate...

In urgency, Chu Jiaojiao had to muster her powerful Physical Strength to resist the pressure, and even so, her face flushed red. Chu Jiaojiao's head was filled with a thread of doubt:

When did Ji You become so strong?

Not only Chu Jiaojiao, but also Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, and Yue Qiguang, all were compelled to defend against the pressure radiating from Ji You.

She seemed immersed in some emotion, unable to extricate herself.

"Ji You classmate?"

"Ji You?"

"Number 4444!"

...

Amidst the calls around her, Ji You seemed not to hear. Not only that, her eyes suddenly reddened.

For a moment, everyone stared worriedly at Ji You.

The Little Golden Dragon, previously nestled comfortably in Ji You's arms, could no longer resist suddenly rushing out, frowning: "Woman, what are you doing?"

Suddenly—

"Drip~"

"Drip~"

"Drip~"

Large tears suddenly started falling from Ji You's misty eyes, yet her hands continued to unceasingly polish the cane...

Seeing this scene, everyone anxiously circled around, momentarily at a loss for how to react...

The pressure around Ji You was very low, oppressively so, as if it might burst at any moment. Even someone as strong as Chu Jiaojiao couldn't easily approach her, and Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, who were slightly weaker, had to retreat a few steps.

It was at this moment, when Liu Fufeng, who had been sitting quietly, suddenly stood up and walked towards Ji You.

step.

steps.

steps.

...

Liu Fufeng stopped, not immediately speaking, but raised his hand to grasp the other end of the cane in Ji You's hand, saying, "Ji You, you should stop now."

Ji You's movements were suddenly interrupted, and she paused, abruptly stopping. At that moment, her aura expanded vastly!

Boom—

Invisibly, spiritual power exploded, causing even the airwaves within the cabin to swirl.

Chu Jiaojiao, Yue Qiguang, Shen Changqing... a few people's figures swayed slightly. Everyone involuntarily closed their eyes, and when they opened them, they found Liu Fufeng, who seemed slender, still standing steadily.

Everyone: "???"

Then—

The next second, under everyone's gaze, Liu Fufeng looked shaky, and then—clang—

Liu Fufeng fell to the ground.

Everyone: "..."

Illusion.

It was truly an illusion.

How could someone as frail as Liu Fufeng possibly withstand Ji You's explosion of spiritual power?

But!!!

Seeing Liu Fufeng, fallen awkwardly, yet still astonishingly beautiful, Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang, everyone's eyes showed a hint of contemplation.

...

As Liu Fufeng fell, it was at this moment that Ji You, immersed in pain, heard the noise and suddenly opened her eyes, faced with everyone's worried gazes, and Liu Fufeng, sprawled on the ground like a dog crawling. Ji You opened her mouth: "..."

Silence.

Still silence.

Everyone was silent.

Ji You opened her mouth: "Um..."

"Cough cough..."

"It wasn't me."

Ji You looked somewhat awkward and embarrassed, especially facing Liu Fufeng's eyes that carried a hint of obvious accusation and grievance, making Ji You feel even more embarrassed.

Liu Fufeng suddenly said: "Ji You classmate, I only wanted you to help make a cane, you... you didn't have to be like this..." He said, appearing extremely frightened, his body slightly trembling, his teeth chattering: "If... If you don't want to make it for free, I... I can write you an IOU."

Ji You: "..."

Everyone: "..."

Chapter 959: Bad Situation

Every time you open your mouth, it's to borrow money, and as soon as you stretch out your hand, it's to write an IOU...

This crown prince.

He's absolutely something else.

Not only was Ji You speechless, but Chu Jiaojiao and the others also found themselves at a loss for words. But Ji You wasn't in the mood to joke. She raised her hand, rubbed her temples, trying her best to suppress her emotions, and make her tone sound calm and steady, saying, "Your crutch, give me another 2 minutes."

Liu Fufeng immediately nodded upon hearing this: "Okay. Ji You, I can give you 20 minutes."

Ji You shook her head: "2 minutes is enough."

Then, Ji You lowered her head, ready to continue crafting, but she noticed the concerned gazes of Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing... Ji You softly said, "Don't worry, I'm fine."

After speaking.

Ji You continued polishing the crutch.

The crutch was already made, just needed the edges smoothed out.

For this step, Ji You was quick.

Rustle, rustle~

As soon as 2 minutes passed, she stopped on time.

Liu Fufeng had been staring at Ji You's movements. When he saw the crutch was completed, his eyes suddenly brightened, but after taking a closer look, they dimmed again.

Ji You handed the crutch over, saying: "Here."

Liu Fufeng took it: "Thanks."

Judging by his tone, there seemed to be a hint of regret and disappointment? Ji You couldn't help but ask, "Why do you look so unhappy?"

Liu Fufeng whispered: "It's really just an ordinary crutch."

Ji You rolled her eyes: "What, are you expecting something more high-end?"

Liu Fufeng said: "I wanted something a bit more special."

Ji You: "Goodbye."

With that, she turned her back.

Then, Ji You faced the gazes of Shen Changqing, Chu Jiaojiao, and the others. She forced out a smile, saying: "Don't stare at me, I know I'm good-looking, and it's my fault for mesmerizing countless young boys and girls... but sorry, I can't settle, because—none of you are my type."

Everyone: "..."

"Alright, don't bother with her anymore." Yue Qiguang turned around, got back into the cockpit,

Sheng Qingyan got a bit closer, carefully stared at Ji You, then covered his mouth, yawned, and said: "Confirmed, definitely a poor dead guy~ Alright then... everyone go back home to your mothers..."

With that, Sheng Qingyan curled up on the sofa, continuing to sleep.

Yue Qiyuan also glanced at Ji You, then said: "Only someone as annoying as number 4444 would say something like that."

With that, Yue Qiyuan also sat back in the cockpit, his gaze fixed on the spaceship monitor.

"All's normal now." Shen Changqing breathed a sigh of relief.

Chu Jiaojiao was somewhat uneasy. She leaned in close to Ji You's face, took a good look, checked several times, and then patted her chest, exhaling deeply: "No doubt, it's the face of the Ji You I like."

Ji You: "..."

In the blink of an eye, the group turned around, each minding their own business, and no one paid attention to Ji You. Even Liu Fufeng was examining his crutch, as if trying to stare a flower out of it...

Ji You let out an invisible sigh of relief.

At this moment, with no one bothering her, she had enough space to herself, which indeed allowed Ji You to breathe a huge sigh of relief.

She—

She really had no mind, nor strength, nor did she want or wish to explain to everyone why she suddenly acted like she was going crazy.

Ji You raised her hand, gently covering her chest:

[Xiao You—]

[Are you—really gone?]

[Even covering my heart, I can't feel you at all.]

At this moment, Ji You's heart was exceptionally regretful. Before encountering those two mysterious unknown forces, a strong sense of crisis prompted Ji You to immediately cut off her connection with Xiao You.

At that time, the Iron Plate dimmed all over, suddenly becoming very strange, as if it was about to peel away from Ji You's spiritual world. At that moment, for some unknown reason, Ji You didn't think twice before cutting off the Iron Plate's energy supply!

No doubt.

Although Ji You couldn't control it, nor could she touch the Iron Plate, and didn't even know what it was, the Iron Plate needed natural food, Soul Devices... types of rare items' energy to nourish itself ever since it entered her spiritual world. And Ji You was the bridge supplying energy to the Iron Plate. She could indeed cut off the Iron Plate's energy supply, but Ji You had never done it before, partly because Xiao You was inside the Iron Plate, and partly because having been with the Iron Plate for so long, it had also saved her life...

It's impossible for Ji You to abandon it.

But, upon realizing the Iron Plate might be discovered and taken away at a moment, Ji You had no choice but to cut off its energy supply. As soon as she cut it off, the Iron Plate instantly hid itself.

It was only after the Iron Plate vanished that those two mysterious forces swiftly arrived—

It accidentally bumped into Ji You's spaceship and paused: "Huh?"

It and the other it simultaneously stopped, carefully observing around—

No anomalies at all.

It seemed like the anomaly a second ago was just an illusion.

Waited quietly for a while.

...

The other it urged: "Let's go."

Then.

They both quickly left.

In the blink of an eye, gone without a trace.

...

After the trembling sensation in Ji You's bones completely disappeared, she still dared not reconnect with the Iron Plate, nor dared to call for Xiao You inside it, because she wasn't sure if the brief pause of the two mysterious forces was due to the Iron Plate?

Until the fear was completely gone from her body, Ji You truly relaxed, then found she seemed unable to connect with the Iron Plate. Even though she knew the Iron Plate was still there, but—

The Iron Plate just didn't respond at all.

Deploying 6 Spiritual Silk, she couldn't find the Iron Plate at all.

...

Ji You was very anxious.

Very flustered.

Unable to find the Iron Plate meant she couldn't find Xiao You, so she didn't know the Iron Plate's condition, nor did she know what happened to Xiao You.

Xiao You—

Ji You didn't dare to think about how Xiao You would feel if she were gone, with no one to communicate or exchange with, how helpless, sad, and scared she would be...

Thinking about this, Ji You clenched her fists tightly.

Not strong enough!

It was because she wasn't strong enough, that she let herself, Xiao You, friends, and classmates fall into such a predicament.

Ji You clenched her fists, gritting her teeth, as dark clouds loomed over her, when the Little Golden Dragon suddenly waved its tail, leapt onto Ji You's head, and said: "Woman! What are you doing?"

Ji You raised her hand, grabbed the Little Golden Dragon, about to tuck it into the Space Button, but then paused, remembering her mecha-specific Space Button was already broken. A mecha-specific Space Button probably costs between 5 to 50 thousand credit points.

Suddenly, Ji You glared at the Little Golden Dragon, somewhat helplessly: "You really are a money-burning little fairy."

Little Golden Dragon: "..."

The Little Golden Dragon rolled its eyes, suddenly saying: "Woman, you're in a terrible state. I can't even feel your spiritual fluctuations anymore. You should eat some Soul Devices to replenish yourself, or else, the situation's not looking good."

Chapter 960: IOUs

"Woman, your state is really bad, I can't even feel your spiritual wave anymore. You need to consume a few more soul devices to supplement it, or things won't look good." Little Golden Dragon said this with furrowed brows, a hint of worry flashing in its golden pupils.

As the only biological mechanoid in the entire human world, Little Golden Dragon not only has acute hearing, but also highly sensitive touch and perception... So sensitive that it can even understand the pronunciation of two mysterious forces... Now, it can't even detect Ji You's spiritual wave, which shows just how bad Ji You's mental state is.

Little Golden Dragon originally thought that by saying this, Ji You would take it seriously, but unexpectedly—

Ji You said, "I have no money."

Little Golden Dragon: "..."

The entire body of Little Golden Dragon trembled, with a face full of shock, it said, "At this point, you still hold onto money? You stingy miser! Do you even know how serious the problem is?"

Of course Ji You knows how bad her mental state is. In the spiritual world, six strands are limply hanging, without any vitality, the whole spiritual world is dim and faintly about to collapse...

But...

No money.

Ji You said helplessly, "A miser holds wealth, but I'm genuinely poor... Where do I have any wealth to guard?"

Still owe 10 billion.

Saying this, Ji You glanced sideways at Little Golden Dragon, and said, "How about, seeing which tycoon takes a fancy to you, I'll first pawn you over to get a few soul devices to use?"

Little Golden Dragon's tail stiffened, and then, angrily said, "Woman, you dare treat Lord Heavenly Dog like this, you—you dim-witted con artist!"

"Ahem..." Ji You straightened her face and said seriously, "Who's the con artist? Anyway, I'm not, I do not admit it."

Little Golden Dragon vigorously swayed its tail, "You are!"

Next to them.

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Sheng Qingyan, Yue Qiguang, Yue Qiyuan, and Liu Fufeng, who were watching Little Golden Dragon and Ji You bicker, all looked at Ji You with concern. Although they tried hard to appear cheerful, Ji You's current state was indeed very poor, poor enough to be described as

dreadful. Her complexion was very pale, an unhealthy pallor, with lifeless eyes and dark circles under them...

As Ji You and Little Golden Dragon quarreled, as they bickered back and forth, suddenly one person and one mechanoid turned their backs on each other in unison, huffing lightly, "Hmph! I'm not talking to you anymore."

Chu Jiaojiao leaned over and said, "Student Ji You, I have 2 mid-level soul devices here for you."

Shen Changqing said softly, "I can spare 2 from here as well."

Yue Qiyuan raised his face and said, "One mid-level, one low-level, I can give you."

Because he was short of money, Yue Qiguang was slightly embarrassed, but he still put on a straight face and in a swaggering tone said, "Seeing how dumb you are, my remaining one, I'll give you."

Sheng Qingyan, who had been lying down, lifted his eyelids and said while covering his mouth, "Don't even think about Green Glaze Master's soul device, I still have a few soul devices made by other masters you can use..."

Liu Fufeng, who had been silent, seeing everyone else had finished speaking, shrank his neck and then suddenly said, "I'm poor now."

Liu Fufeng saw that Ji You didn't seem to hear clearly, so he cleared his throat and repeated, "I'm poor now."

Ji You: "???"

Liu Fufeng said, "I'm poor now, no... no soul devices to lend you."

Ji You: "..."

"Poor soul!" Ji You said somewhat speechlessly, "I wasn't counting on your soul devices anyway, ha."

A fallen Imperial Prince who, sitting on countless riches, was now borrowing money and writing IOUs... Who would still hope to squeeze money from his hand? Facing the concern of those around her, Ji You raised her hand, rubbed her temples, and tried to make herself seem a bit more spirited, saying, "I'm fine, you don't need to worry."

Just when Chu Jiaojiao and the others thought she didn't need their offered soul devices, Ji You said in the next sentence, "But your soul devices, can I borrow them to use, ha."

Chu Jiaojiao directly raised her hand, took them out from her space button, and shoved them into Ji You's hands, "Here you go, earned them from Student Fufeng, they haven't even warmed up yet."

Next.

It was Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Sheng Qingyan's turn.

Ji You felt warm in her heart, feeling nothing but moved, deeply moved. She reached out to accept them, her tone sincere, "Jiaojiao, Xiaoqing, Ah Guang, Ayuan, Spicy Eye... I have nothing to repay you with, but in the future, I'll definitely have your backs."

Everyone: "..."

Yue Qiguang pouted, "Who needs you to have their back? You weakling."

Ji You opened her mouth, thought about it, and decided against arguing. This fool Yue Qiguang was so broke and still spared her a soul device, she shouldn't argue with this fool.

Then.

Yue Qiyuan straightforwardly said, "Having my back isn't what matters, the soul device is borrowed to you, not given, remember to return it."

Ji You: "..."

Hearing Yue Qiyuan's words, a red blush crossed Shen Changqing's cultured face, "I... I'm also just lending it."

Ji You: "..."

Sheng Qingyan rolled his eyes at Ji You, saying, "Mine is also lent, oh, giving it to you? Don't even think about it. You not only have to return it but return several times over."

Ji You: "..."

Ji You gritted her teeth and said, "Aren't you more ruthless than a loan shark?"

Sheng Qingyan hummed, "It's obviously a loan shark, are you borrowing or not?"

Ji You: "Borrowing!"

Saying this, Ji You suddenly pulled out a stack of IOUs from her space button, looked at Sheng Qingyan and the others, and smiled, "No money, so I'll write some IOUs for now."

Everyone: "..."

Too much debt to worry about.

Ji You didn't wait for others to react, she swiftly signed a few strokes, then tore off two sheets and handed them to Chu Jiaojiao, saying, "Jiaojiao, two for you."

As she tore off these two IOUs, Ji You held her head high, full of pride and complacency. From her demeanor and tone, those who knew it was an IOU. Others might have thought she was handing over a check for hundreds of billions. For a moment, everyone was speechless.

Then.

Ji You tore off two more, forcefully handing them to a somewhat dazed Shen Changqing, saying, "Xiaoqing, shut your mouth, these are yours."

"Ayuan, two for you as well."

"Yue Qiguang, you poor soul, only one for you, ha."

"Spicy Eye, here, here, here..."

Chu Jiaojiao, Shen Changqing, Yue Qiyuan, Yue Qiguang, Sheng Qingyan, holding the IOUs in their hands, were all a bit stupefied...

Ji You said, "Don't just stand there, quickly put it away, don't lose it, if you lose it, I'll deny the debt, you know."

Chu Jiaojiao and others: "..."

Ji You urged, "This is the IOU of a king standing at the peak of the universe, you won't find another anywhere else."

Chu Jiaojiao and others: "..."

Standing on the side, watching this scene, Liu Fufeng looked at the IOUs in others' hands, feeling envy and endless jealousy... Then he turned his face, his beautiful eyes fixed on the remaining stack of IOUs in Ji You's hands.